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U.S. Home miss -



**A QUARTER  
CENTURY of  
MISSIONS  
in AMERICA**





# TWENTY-FIVE YEARS *of* MISSIONARY SERVICE *BY THE* WOMEN'S EX- ECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Board of Domestic Missions  
of the Reformed Church  
===== in America =====

1882-83



1907-08

<i>President</i>	.	.	.	.	Mrs. John S. Bussing
<i>Cor. Secretary</i>	.	.	.	.	Mrs. John S. Allen
<i>Treasurer</i>	.	.	.	.	Mrs. Kenneth G. White

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Board Rooms - - - 25 East 22d Street, New York City

To all friends and lovers  
of Home Missions

Greeting -

For nearly five years we  
have been united in loving  
service in the work of  
the Master.

God grant that in the  
coming years as new doors  
of need and opportunity  
open before us, we may  
enter in with more prayer,  
deeper love and fuller  
consecration to win  
"America for Christ"

Faithfully yours

Mrs. John A. Peck, Jr. Presiding  
President



THE STATELY TEPEES.

## A Memory and a Message

MRS. ALFRED E. MYERS.

“FROM out the silver circle of the years,” we look, beyond the quarter-century of service just closed, back to those historic days early in the seventeenth century when, in the “Church in the Fort” on the island of Manhattan, our forefathers gathered for the worship of God.

It was a group of earnest and devout men and women, with their pastor—Hollanders—true to their religious convictions and loyal to the Church of the Netherlands, who met here. On that very spot in the years to come, thousands in a day would find their port of entrance into the New World, where their futures would be guided and influenced by the principles and religious teachings of those who worshipped in the church in the Fort.

As the years passed on, many churches were established in and about New York, along the banks of the Hudson and its tributaries, and through the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, all bearing the name of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Out on the frontier settlements of Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, the little church and school house were erected side by side, to grow in the lapse of years into the stately Church edifice, the College and the Theological Seminary.

And still westward our churches were extended, in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Kansas and Montana, until to-day they span the continent from the point of begin-

ning on the Atlantic Coast to the shore of the Pacific Ocean.

In the great Southwest our Indian missions, and in Kentucky our Mountain missions, testify to aggressive missionary enterprise, while in the new State of Oklahoma we are growing apace with the towns and cities that in this wonderful land develop so quickly from a village of tents.

We thank God for His goodness and for His loving kindness in all the years that are past, and we praise Him for giving to us the joy of service in His Kingdom on earth.

"The silver circle of the years is closed and clasped," but looking forward into the future we recognize the opportunities and the responsibilities awaiting us. As handmaidens of the King, we are pledged to His service, and to the extension of His Kingdom on the earth.

"Lift up your eyes and behold." There are coming to our doors, and making their homes in every town and city of our land, people from every race and nation on the globe, many of them heathen, actually setting up their temples for the worship of their gods of bronze and stone along our streets and thoroughfares. Others, without God, professing that they know Him not. Some with vain philosophies and dangerous sentiments against government and law; the followers of Buddha and Confucius, the Mahomedan, the infidel, the anarchist. What are we doing for these, our neighbors?

From the days when the slave ship brought its cargo of human souls to our shores, until the present time, what have we done to elevate and educate and Christianize the Negro, our neighbor in the Southern States?

The islands of the sea, Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippines, with their large populations under the yoke and bondage of the Romish Church, are holding out their hands for help. What answer have we given to this appeal from our island neighbors?

Many tribes of Indians are yet without the Gospel. In the mountain fastnesses of the South are homes destitute of the knowledge and love of Christ. In Mexico, in Alaska, in South America, our neighbors are calling, "Come over and help us." How have we answered this appeal?

And the problems of the city, how they crowd upon us! The poor, the sick, the aged, the little children, the unemployed, all holding out pleading hands to us, their neighbors. How have we answered them?

God grant us a clearer vision of what His will is, a greater courage in undertaking new responsibilities, a stronger faith in laying hold upon His promises, until "the Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord, and He shall reign for ever and ever."



A MICHIGAN PARSONAGE.

## Out of the Past

MRS. JOHN S. ALLEN.

A QUARTER Century of Missions! How much it holds of loving and of doing! It speaks of thousands scattered near and far throughout our land; who, made one in Christ, sought by service and sacrifice to bring the uplift of His gospel to all Americans, East and West, to Indians, Mountaineers, Orientals, Aliens, to all who dwell under our flag.

No record of what these years have brought to the Women's Executive Committee can be complete without affectionate mention of one whose hand led, and whose voice persuaded during eighteen years of continuous service as Secretary, Mrs. Kate B. Horton. It is indeed fitting that her pen should tell of what was the earliest purpose and work of the Committee, as we find it in her Fifteenth Anniversary leaflet. "Remember this date—Nov. 8, 1882. That day in Newark, N. J., the Jubilee Convention of the Board of Domestic Missions was held and in planning greater work the Board urged the women of our denomination to organize for work in the home field.

"Thus urged, some women, less than a score in all, responded and then and there the Women's Executive Committee was formed.

"When officered and equipped the new organization sought work to do. The Domestic Board was building churches in



CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, THOMAS, OKLAHOMA.

the home field and paying its missionary pastors such salaries as its treasury permitted, but the women trained to consider minor details of household economy found themselves wondering how a minister with a salary of \$600 or \$800 and a family of six or more could afford to pay rent.

"Like an inspiration, then, our work flashed upon us and we said, 'We will build parsonages for our missionary pastors and their families.' Our first appropriations were for two parsonages in South Dakota, our next for repairing a church in New York."

The work on church and parsonage thus linked together at the very beginning, has ever since been inseparable.

In twenty-five years one hundred and twenty-one of these homes have been built.

When we speak of "building" a church or parsonage, it does not mean that we have given the full cost of the building. The rule is invariable that we give only what the people themselves cannot possibly raise.

This early work of the Committee still claims a large place, and together with it, under the term General Work, a many-sided ministry is carried forward, which covers special gifts, Christmas and missionary boxes and the student missionary work.

The year 1908 marks the opening of another department of work, and finds the Committee taking its place in an effort to help solve the problem of Christianizing the millions of aliens now coming into our country. The specific work to





A KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN HOME.

which providential leading seemed to point was a neglected field among the thousands of Japanese in and near New York.

A specially fitted worker was found in Mr. E. A. Ohori, a Japanese student at our Seminary in New Brunswick, who welcomed the opportunity of preaching Christ to his fellow countrymen.

And so our work has widened with the years, new occasions teaching new duties, and as we look beyond to what the future holds we see no horizon limit, but an ever growing nation, gathered from every people of the earth a hundred millions of souls and more, all these to be wrought into a Commonwealth of Christ that shall one day Christianize the world.

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## Our First Special Mission—The Indians

MRS. CHARLES A. RUNK.

COLONY MISSION.

**I**N 1895 the first Indian Mission was started in Colony, Oklahoma, by Rev. Frank H. Wright, our pioneer missionary. The Columbian Memorial Church was erected there, and a parsonage, and Rev. and Mrs. Walter C. Roe took charge of the work with such energy and wise control that the results have been far beyond any calculation.



COLUMBIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH, COLONY, OKLAHOMA.

From this centre of Christian life have gone out influences so far reaching that it is impossible to trace them. The whole community has been elevated and God's blessing has truly rested upon the labors of these faithful workers.

A year ago the additional work devolving on Mr. Roe as superintendent of all the Oklahoma work, both for the Board of Domestic Missions and the Women's Executive Committee, rendered it necessary that another worker should be placed at Colony to carry on the personal, painstaking labor among the individual Indians, which has been Mr. Roe's policy from the beginning. The Committee was most fortunate in securing the services of Rev. Richard H. Harper, who, with his family, is now living in a comfortable home, enlarged and arranged for this purpose by a beautiful memorial gift.

Working together in perfect harmony, these two efficient pastors have the ever increasing work well in hand.

Last May the church was struck by lightning and partially destroyed; as the seating capacity was already too small, it was decided to enlarge as well as rebuild, and thanks to many friends, Indians as well as white people, we have to-day a beautiful, well proportioned building, which still retains, however, the outlines of the little stone church we have so loved.

The Arthur Brokaw Memorial Chapel has been dedicated, and will soon be a centre of Christian activity for those Indians living in its vicinity.



A MESCALERO APACHE HOME.

#### APACHE MISSION.

In 1900 Mr. Wright started our mission among the Apaches, known as Geronimos' Band, and held as prisoners of war near Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This band consists of about two hundred and fifty people, who live in twelve villages, scattered over the reservation given to them.

For twenty years they have been under the care of the War Department, and in many ways they are well trained and do good work, but the curse of gambling has a strong hold on them, and especially the women are very hard to reach.

Owing to the conditions of their lives, our plan there has been rather different from that of any of our other missions. We have the Van Alst Memorial Orphanage, which makes a happy home for nineteen boys and girls who would otherwise be sadly neglected, and a day school and kindergarten, with fifty-three scholars, learning not only the daily lessons from books, but many sweet lessons of kindness to one another, and a tender care for all God's creatures.

Preaching services are held every week, also Sunday School and Christian Endeavor meetings regularly.

Until her marriage, Mrs. L. L. Legters, as Miss Maud Adkisson, was the loved and loving Principal of the mission, and for the past year Miss Hendrina Hospers, has had that place, and is rapidly making herself known and loved by the people, while she is ably supported by the teachers and other workers.



SETTLER'S HOME, NEW MEXICO.

Miss McMillan, for several years the faithful teacher of the day school, was compelled to resign on account of ill health, but because of her interest in the Apaches, especially the women, she is now doing personal mission work for them, visiting them in their homes, where she reads the Bible and prays with them, and she has formed a Missionary Society, which is now contributing regularly to the cause of missions at home and abroad, the women earning the money by the work of their hands.

The Indians themselves desired her to do this work, and they pay the larger portion of her salary.

This mission is unique in many features, and is one of the sweetest and most helpful that we have. Working among children, trying to fit them to meet the new conditions which have come to the Indian tribes, what possibilities there are, and what a responsibility, not only for the teachers, but for all of us, to see to it, that there is no lack of material means, no withholding of opportunities, which may open new lines of life and action for these boys and girls.

#### COMANCHE MISSION.

In the autumn of 1905, three Comanche Indians, Nahwatz, Periconic and Howard White Wolf, came to the East to ask that a minister be sent to tell their people about the Savior. We all know the story of their visit and its result, and how the Vermilye Memorial Chapel was built; later a parsonage was added, and in 1906 Rev. and Mrs. L. L.



OLD NAMAVOIA, AN EARLY CONVERT.

Legters began making a Christian home there, which will increasingly become a centre of light and hospitality.

Services are held regularly in the church, and Mr. Legters also has the opportunity of preaching once a month at the Comanche Government School, where there are one hundred and eighty-five scholars and a number of employees, a grand opportunity for sowing good seed.

Mrs. Legters has a Bible Class of over fifty women, and the work in all lines is progressing well.

#### MESCALERO MISSION.

In the summer of 1907 Mr. Wright once again turned his face to the West, and visited the Mescalero Apaches in New Mexico, living near the agency of that name, eighteen miles from the railroad. They number about four hundred and fifty and are closely related to the Apaches at Fort Sill.

Finding no other religious organization at work there, and having the assurance that the Indians would welcome a mission, Rev. E. B. Fincher was secured to undertake the work, and has been on the field since October. During these months he, his wife and two children have been living in two small rooms which they were able to rent, but now through the generosity of Miss Anna M. Sandham, who has made a gift in memory of her mother, a comfortable house will be built in the near future. Some money has been received toward the church building, and it is hoped that the whole amount will soon be in the treasury, and before the summer



MESCALERO AGENCY, NEW MEXICO.

is over we trust to have a house of God up among those mountains.

The Classis of Iowa supplies the means for the support of this mission, a noble gift.

The reservation is seven thousand feet above sea level, the scenery most beautiful, the air dry and bracing, pine forests abound, clear running streams, and many varieties of lovely flowers; but alas, so few of the people know about God, the Creator, who has given so much of beauty to this world, and even in those mountain heights, sin and suffering have found their way.

Thank God that we are able to bring some light to these darkened lives, and let us remember these people in our prayers and the missionary who is occupying this frontier post of all our work.

#### A NEW MISSION.

In the near future the Women's Executive Committee hopes to open a new mission, the support of which has been promised by the Classis of Pella.

The outline of our four-fold work, with another branch soon to be added, has been briefly told, but only the outline; fill in the story, dear friends, yourselves; multiply your own daily experience of home work, training the children, the countless details which the women must attend to, in order that the wheels of life may run smoothly, add to all this the strange customs and superstitions of the Indians which must



SCENE IN MESCALERO COUNTRY.

be reckoned with, the ignorance of law, either of God or man, the fierce battle against tuberculosis, and other diseases, the isolation and loneliness which bears so heavily on the highly-educated and cultivated men and women who form our staff of workers, the constant fight against sin in many repugnant forms; does the story seem too dark? It would be, and even the most consecrated workers could not endure it, were it not for the grace of God, which helps them over the dark places, and gives them rich reward in the knowledge that they are instrumental in the saving of souls, and for the thought also that though separated by

miles of prairie, plains and mountains, there is a band of friends who love them and who are sustaining them by prayer and gifts.

The need is very urgent, the opportunities many, the time is short. Work and give "while it is to-day."

Let us all have a share in this glorious work; as we love our country, and desire above all things that it shall be a Christian nation, we must not neglect these poor Indian tribes who have been pushed on and on, until it would seem that there is no place left for them in all this wide land.

"In our Father's house are many mansions,"—there may we all meet, and it may be, there will be some red-skinned brothers and sisters to greet us whom we have helped to a knowledge of the Savior.



MISSION AT MC KEE, KENTUCKY.

## Mountain Americans—A Call and Its Answer

MRS. WALTER J. MCINDOE.

A BEAUTIFUL day in June was a peculiarly fitting time for the beginning of our Kentucky mountain work. From highest peak to lowliest valley "every common bush was aflame with God." But the eyes of the dwellers in the humble cabin homes "were holden" and the glorious vision failed to carry its message of uplift. Here and there might be found one in whose heart still lingered an undefined and unexpressed longing that in some way a new and different life might open to them. The many, however, were wearied and discouraged through oft-repeated disappointment, through long-continued hardship and took up the burden of this new day as hopelessly as they had laid it down on the night previous. Help, loving and strong was close at hand, though they knew it not.

Many miles away "in the upper room" was gathered a little company of women earnestly beseeching the Father above to bless this new work about to be undertaken in His name for the relief of these other children of His great family; praying very tenderly, too, for her who was to go forth carrying the glad tidings of great joy to the lonely mountain dweller. Would that we might follow this consecrated nurse and Bible reader as she traveled all that





GOING TO CHURCH IN KENTUCKY.

summer through the valleys and over the hills, following the hidden trails until the lowly home was found. Everywhere made welcome, she ministered untiringly alike to body and soul. Sickness ever present, gave opportunity for tender nursing, for relief and comfort quite unknown before. What better chance to whisper the story of the Good Physician than when the heart had been softened by human love and sympathy. The personal touch, the realization that someone really did care, that friends were reaching out the helping hand, brought courage and made life seem more worth while. "Not so much for ourselves, but that our children may have a better chance," was the oft-repeated plea of the parents. A little later to meet this need the teachers came and a new idea of the meaning of school life came into the little town of McKee and its vicinity. Who could have dreamed of the beautiful school-house, with its cleanliness and comfort, its books, maps, pictures and piano. This last a never-failing source of pleasure, for a mountaineer loves music. Over the building floats the Stars and Stripes, seen for the first time by these native-born American children. Listen to the voices of the children, older and younger. Look into their happy faces to-day, if you would know something of what has been accomplished in a few short years.

With the coming of the minister, his wife and little ones, great strength was added to the work. The beauty and purity of the home life, the integrity and uprightness of character set up a new standard and won many friends.



MEMORIAL HOME, GRAY HAWK, KY.

From the Gray Hawk district came pleading voices asking that they too might share in the blessing, for the good news had spread. The nurse, the Bible reader and the teacher were sent to them. Many a mother's heart has been comforted by the relief given to her and to her children. Many a "Little Jim" has caught sight of gladness which has made more endurable the suffering that was past being cured. Since the little Memorial home has been completed its doors have been always open to every form of need. Special interest has been shown in the young men and boys, and they meet often in the evenings and are entertained with games and music. So little that is pure and bright has ever come in touch with their lives, and no effort been made to keep them from vice and sin. When the new church is finished here, a room will be fitted up for this special purpose—a reading-room open and free day and night.

The encouragements of the work have been many, but the outlook is even more promising if we can but realize and grasp our opportunities at once. Beyond Gray Hawk lies the little settlement at Tyner. Hundreds, yes, thousands of young people may be reached from this point, boys and girls eager for an education, and who can never have their chance unless we give it to them. Purchase a large tract of land here, erect dormitories, establish an industrial plant, so that the hands may be trained to be skillful, taught to make home a place of comfort and happiness, to work the soil properly and secure from it a living. Who can estimate the far-reach-

ing influence of such a step forward. Shall we, may we go in and possess this new land? "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me"—the King's approval shall be the reward.

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## Why Home Missions

MISS ELIZABETH B. VERMILYE.

**T**HE Women's Executive Committee is only the agent for the women of the Reformed Church, only powerful as they give it power; progressive as they stand behind to make good the effort to advance; with ability measured and limited by the gifts, the interest and the prayers of those it represents. Just as its love and consecration are aided and augmented by you, the women of the church, shall the years bring perfected fruit.

The Committee asks, therefore, for increased support in the years which lie ahead; a large and ever larger outpouring of gifts, gold, of sacrifice; frankincense, of offered prayers; myrrh, of intelligent interest and co-operation. For what purpose do we ask? That this land of ours may become in truth the land of Jesus Christ. That the work of missions in this land which we love may be pressed forward, until from north to south, and sea to sea His rule may be supreme.

For what are "Missions"? The organized effort of the followers of Jesus Christ to extend and establish His Kingdom. Missions are as necessary to the continued life of Christianity, as much a part of its vital organism, as breathing is necessary to the life of the human body. If they cease, ere many decades have rolled away, the great pulsing heart of Christianity will have ceased to beat, and this land will have lost the very light of life.

Do we question the value of that kingdom of light and life and peace to ourselves or to the world? Can we invent a better way of extending it than that instituted by its founder when, with a faith and vision piercing the ages, He commanded His feeble band of disciples, "Go," "preach," "witness," "your field is the world!"

For what does the religion and Kingdom of Jesus Christ stand? Surely, as lived and taught by Him—a deep, spiritual life; broad, religious freedom; a true knowledge of God;

honored womanhood; noble manhood; sacred and protected childhood; universal fatherhood; divine sonship; human brotherhood; pure morality; high aspiration, if imperfect attainment, and a spirit of self-sacrificing love in imitation of Him who "gave His life a ransom for many."

Can any one truly claim that this land does not need the extension of such a Kingdom? Look through the length and breadth of it! Is Jesus Christ indeed the Master of our government, national or city; of our industrial or social life? Is this nation truly "Christian" in its efforts, aspirations or ideals?

No religion or church which it not missionary in its spirit can keep its place among the living religions or organizations of the earth. Our Reformed Church is small among the churches, but it has been honored because of the character of its missionaries, and the equipment for service of its missions. Just as long as it puts forth tentacles of love and lays hold on the heart of India and China abroad, of Oklahoma, Kentucky, and other newer parts of our own land—just so long and no longer will it retain its life and place in the great church-body of Jesus, the Christ.

Let us go "forward" into the unknown future with new and stronger purpose to do each her part as opportunity comes to make our church great in the service of her Lord and to win this land of ours for Him and His Kingdom.

### OKLAHOMA CHURCHES.

Rev. Walter C. Roe, .. Superintendent of Missions in Oklahoma  
 Rev. Frank Hall Wright, .. .. Evangelist for Oklahoma  
 Horton Memorial at Shawnee, .. .. Rev. M. T. Conklyn, Minister  
 Oklahoma City, .. .. Rev. Dr. H. E. Colby, Minister  
 Thomas, .. .. Rev. S. A. Waters, Minister  
 Arapaho, .. .. Rev. J. J. Hoffman, Minister  
 Clinton, .. .. Rev. George Korteling, Minister  
 Cordell, .. .. Rev. C. H. Spaan, Minister  
 Gotebo, .. ..  
 Tulsa (tent work), .. Mr. H. W. Whitacre (worker in charge)  
 The W. E. C. has provided furnishings for these churches, also  
 the parsonages.

### INDIAN CHURCHES IN OKLAHOMA.

Columbian Memorial, Colony, .. .. Rev. W. C. Roe  
 .. .. Rev. R. H. Harper  
 Apache preaching station, Fort Sill, .. .. Rev. L. L. Legters  
 Vermilye Memorial, Comanche Reservation, .. Rev. L. L. Legters

### COLONY MISSION, OKLAHOMA.

(Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians.)

Rev. and Mrs. Walter C. Roe, .. .. Missionaries  
 Rev. Frank Hall Wright, .. .. Evangelist  
 Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Harper, .. .. Missionaries  
 Frank Hamilton, .. .. Cheyenne Interpreter  
 Washee, .. .. Arapaho Interpreter  
 Miss Johanna Meengs, .. .. Home Helper

### MOHONK INDUSTRIAL LODGE.

(This work is self-supporting.)

Though this industrial work is undenominational, it is a very  
 great aid to the Mission.

Mr. Reese Kincaide, .. .. Manager  
 Miss Mary Jensen, .. .. Matron

### FORT SILL MISSION—OKLAHOMA.

(Apache Indians.)

Miss Hendrina Hospers, .. .. Head Worker  
 Miss Anna Heersma, .. .. Home Helper  
 Miss C. P. Mahon, .. .. Teacher  
 Miss Mary L. Ewing, .. .. Teacher  
 Miss Joan Saunders, .. .. Matron

### FORT SILL MISSION—OKLAHOMA—(Continued).

Miss Roberta Saunders, .. .. Assistant Matron  
 James Ka-way-ka, .. .. Apache Interpreter  
 Rev. L. L. Legters, .. .. Minister

### COMANCHE MISSION, OKLAHOMA.

(Comanche Indians.)

Rev. and Mrs. L. L. Legters, .. .. Missionaries  
 Walter Koma, .. .. Interpreter  
 Miss Jennie Lewis, .. .. Home Helper

### MESCALERO MISSION, NEW MEXICO.

(Mescalero Apache Indians.)

Rev. and Mrs. E. B. Fincher, .. .. Missionaries  
 The Women's Executive Committee expect to open about July 1  
 a new mission among Indians in Nebraska.

### MOUNTAIN MISSION, McKEE, KENTUCKY.

Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Messler, .. .. Missionaries  
 Mrs. Henrietta Zwemer Te Kolste, .. .. Principal  
 Miss Sena Kooiker, .. .. Teacher  
 Miss Hannah Hoekje, .. .. Teacher

### MOUNTAIN MISSION, GRAY HAWK, KENTUCKY.

Mrs. Caroline Hoover, .. .. Head Worker  
 Miss Louise Schenmerhorn, .. .. Teacher

### CLASSICAL MISSIONARIES.

Rev. John Huizenga, .. .. Rock Valley, Iowa  
 Rev. E. Acilts, .. .. Sioux Falls, S. Dakota

### STUDENT MISSIONARIES.

Each summer about twenty-five Students from our Seminaries  
 are sent out by the Committee.

### HOME MISSIONARY PASTORS.

The Committee, through gifts to the Board for that purpose, is  
 represented by a number of Home Missionary pastors.

### ALIEN WORK.

Together with the Board of Domestic Missions the Women's  
 Executive Committee has taken up work among the Japanese in and  
 near New York.

Mr. E. A. Ohori, .. .. Missionary



The Reformed Church in America began in 1628 with the Church in the Fort on Manhattan.  
Its extension and Mission Stations are indicated on the above map.

*Drawn by Miss Mary Bussing.*



